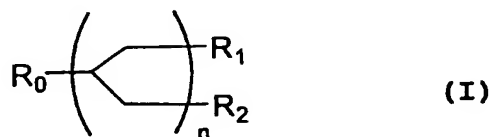
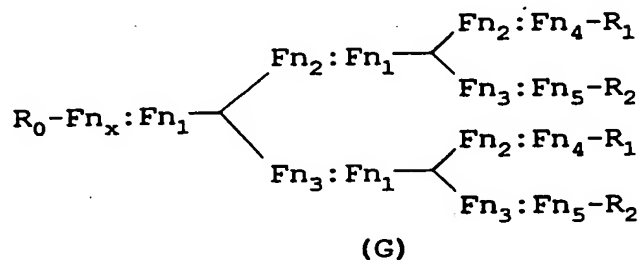


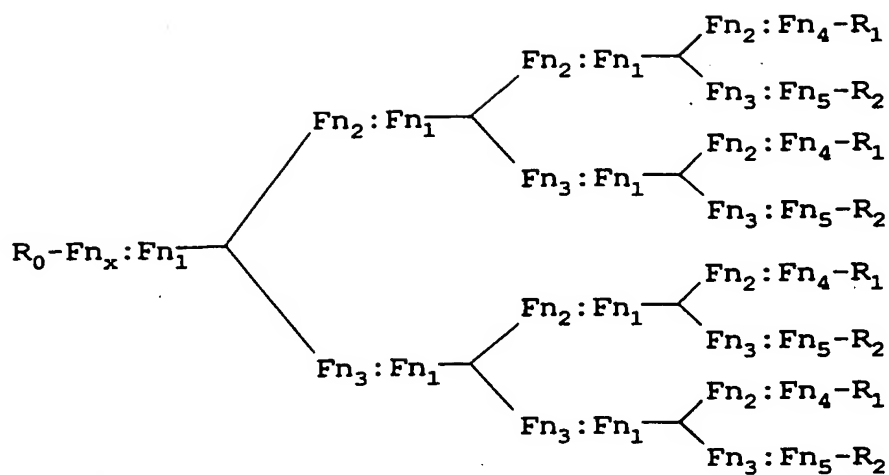
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure having general formula (I):

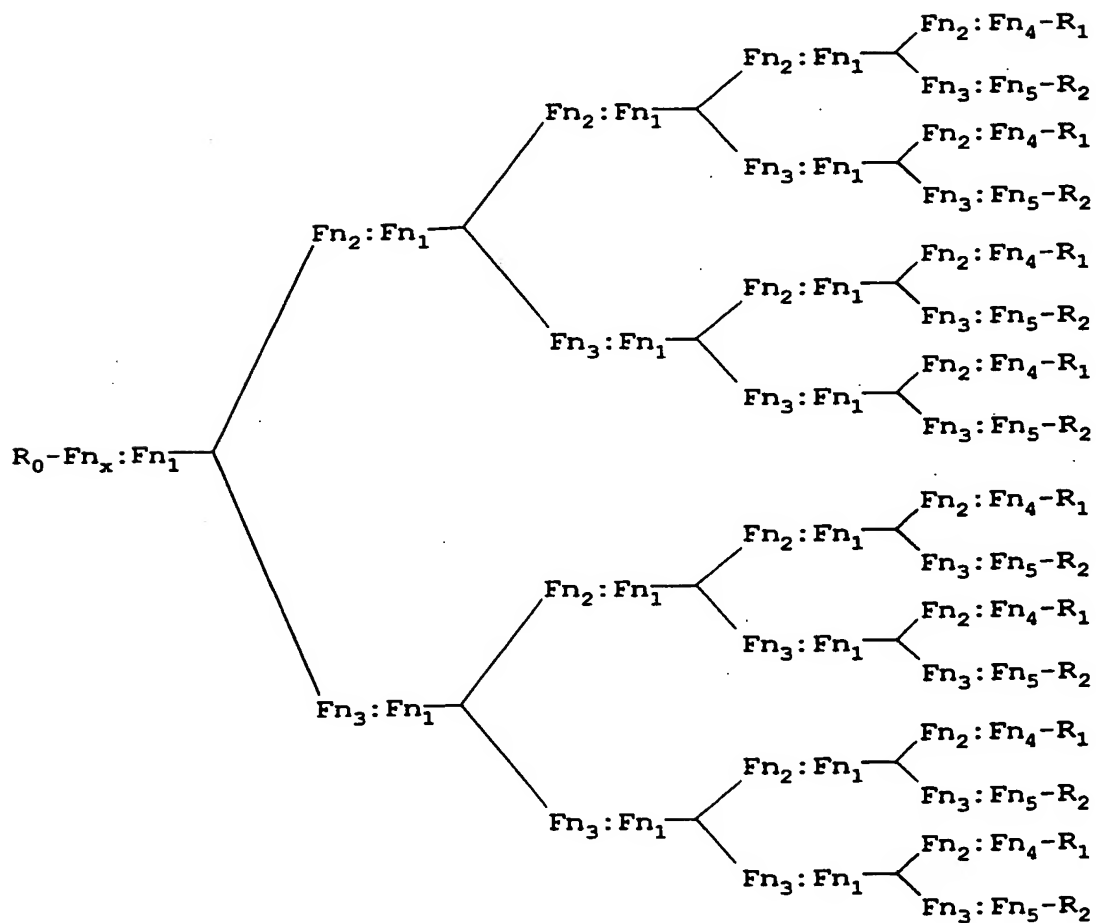


which is selected from the group consisting of an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (G), an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (H), and an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (J):





(H)



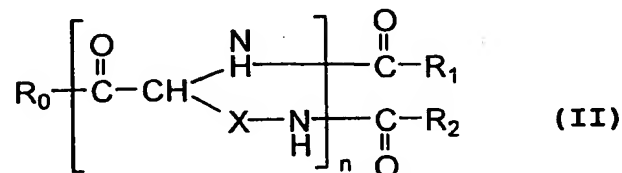
(J)

where Fn_x , Fn_1 , Fn_2 , Fn_3 , Fn_4 and Fn_5 respectively represents a functional reactive group, each of which is bonded to a neighboring functional reactive group; R_0 is a ~~hydrophilic group~~ poly- or oligo-oxyethylene derivative, or a poly- or oligo-saccharide derivative; R_1 and R_2 are independently a hydrophobic group; and n is an integer of 2 to 4.

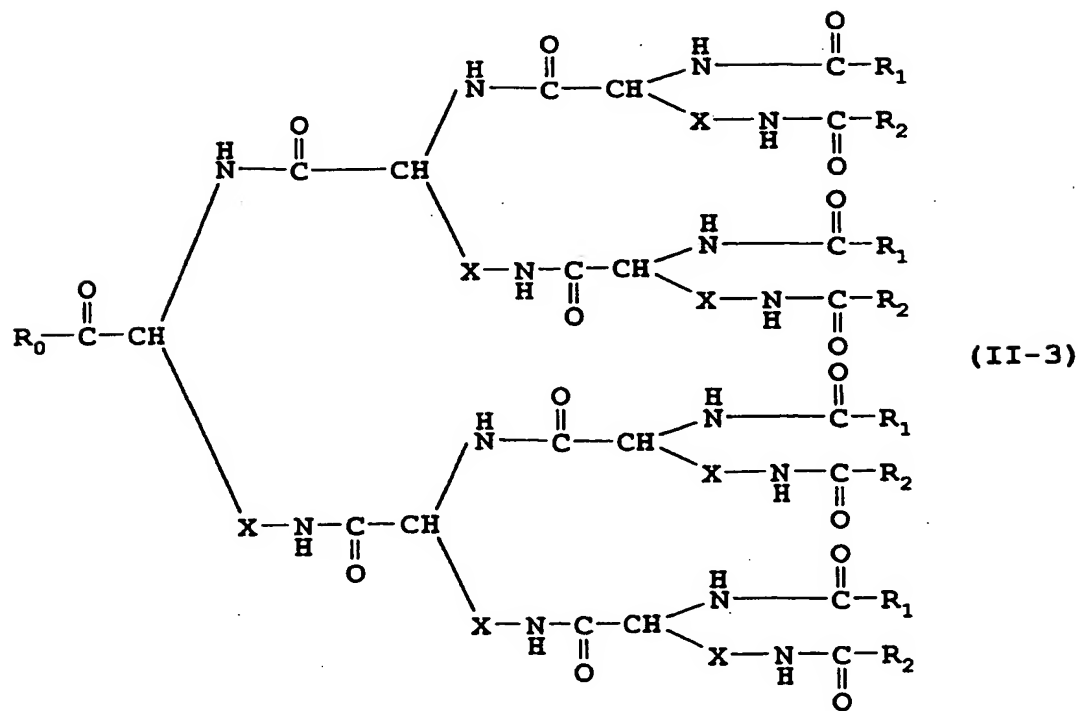
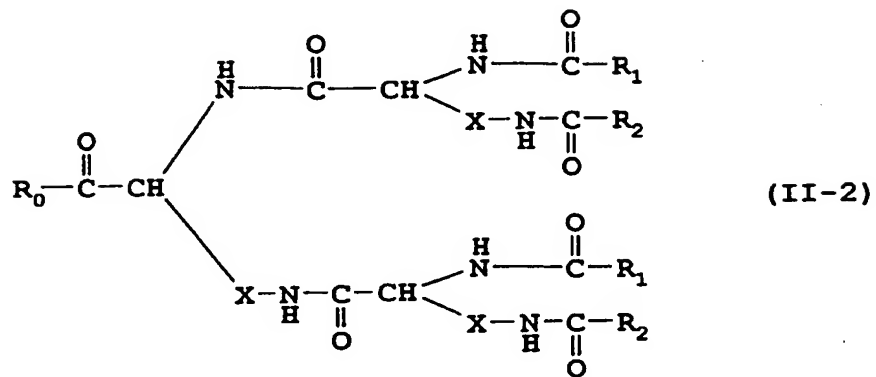
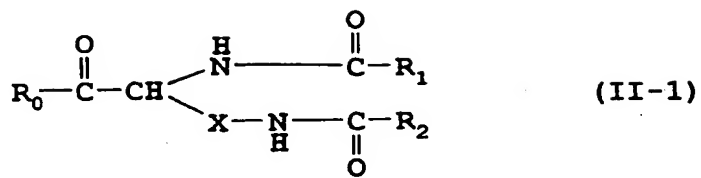
Claim 2 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 1, wherein said functional reactive group is bonded through amide bond or ester bond.

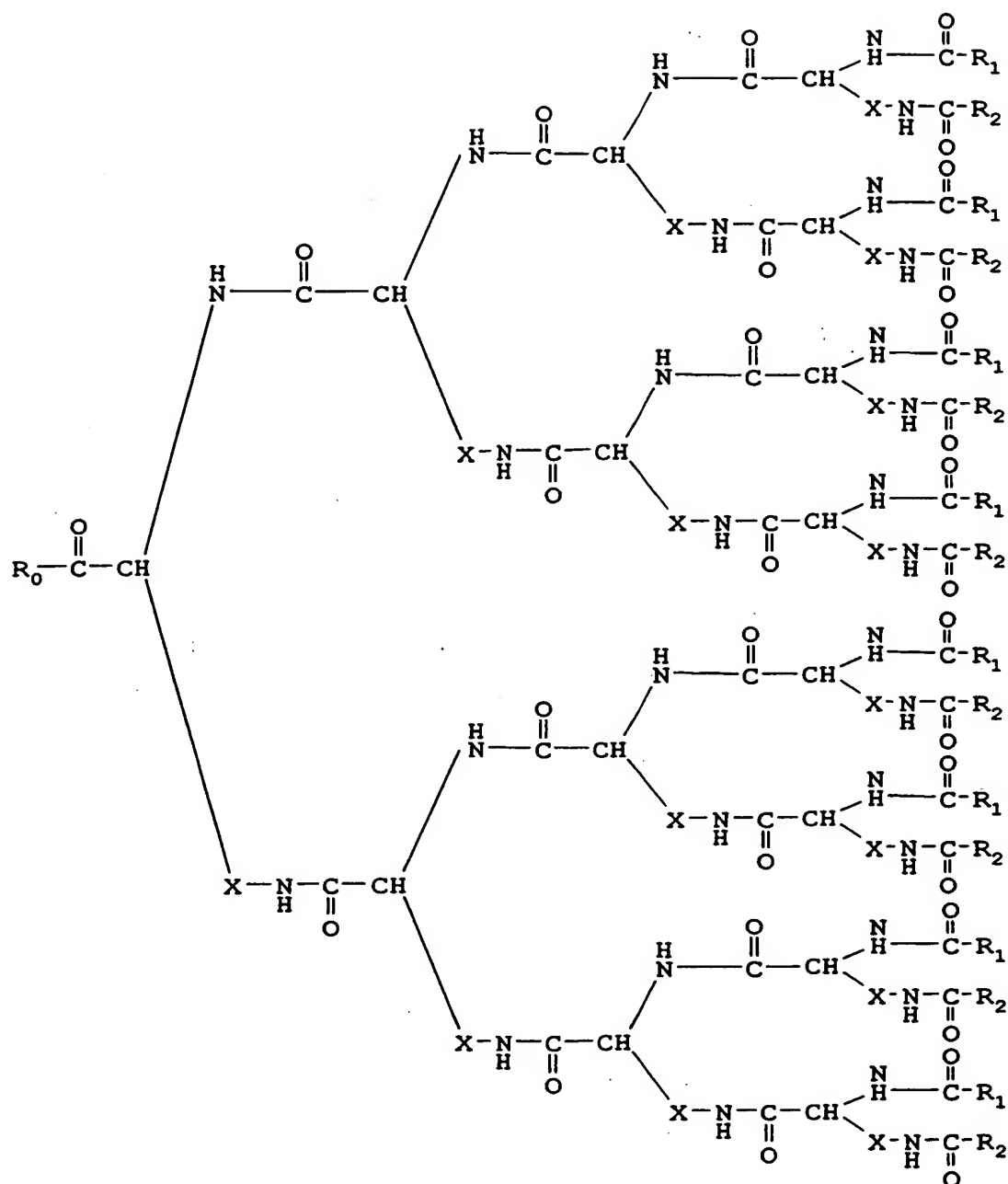
Claims 3-4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure having general formula (II):



which is selected from the group consisting of an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (II-1), an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (II-2), an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (II-3), and an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (II-4):





(II-4)

where R₀ is a hydrophilic group; X is -(CH₂)₄- or -(CH₂)_p-CO- (wherein p is 1 or 2); each of
R₁ and R₂ ~~are~~ is independently a hydrophobic an alkyl group; and n is an integer of 1 to 4.

Claim 6 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 5, wherein said compound is represented by said formula (11-2), said formula (11-3) or said formula (11-4).

Claim 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The amphiphilic compound according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 5, wherein said alkyl group contains 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 5, wherein said R_0 is poly- or oligo-oxyethylene derivative, poly- or oligo-saccharide derivative, or poly- or oligo-peptide.

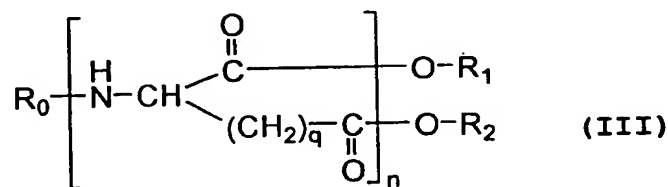
Claim 12 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 6, wherein said R_0 is poly- or oligo-oxyethylene derivative, poly- or oligo-saccharide derivative, or poly- or oligo-peptide.

Claim 13 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 5, wherein said R_0 is represented by a formula:

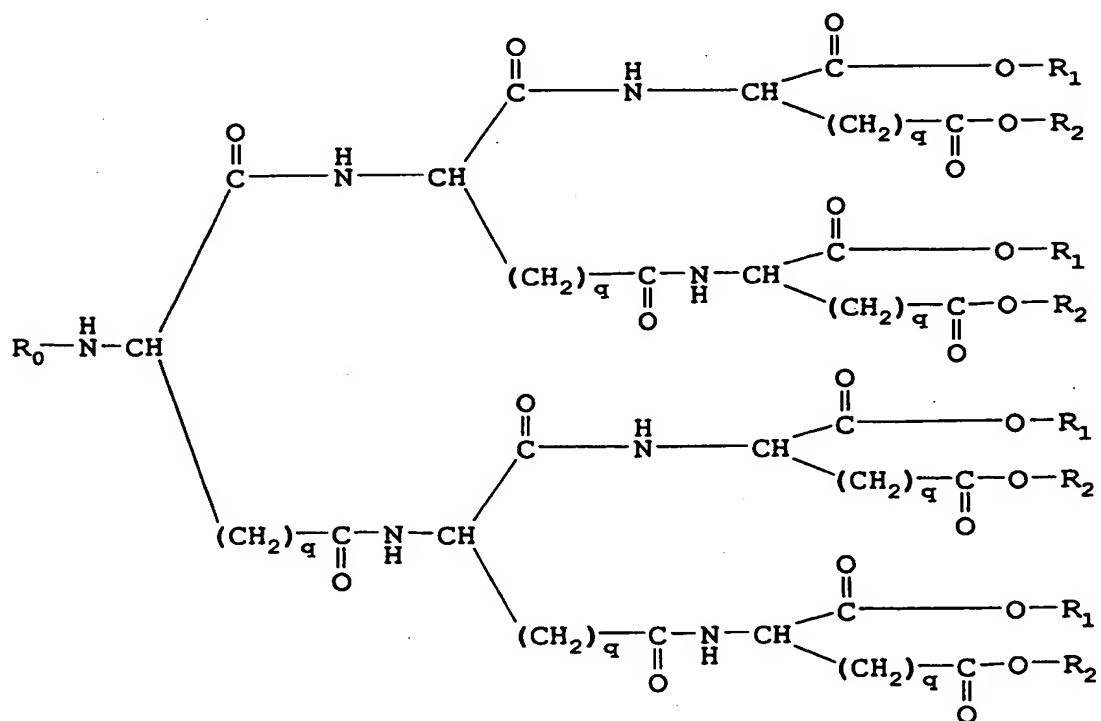
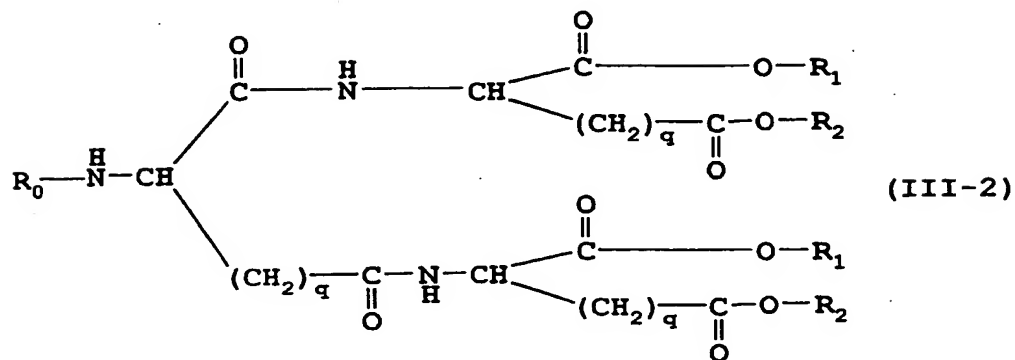
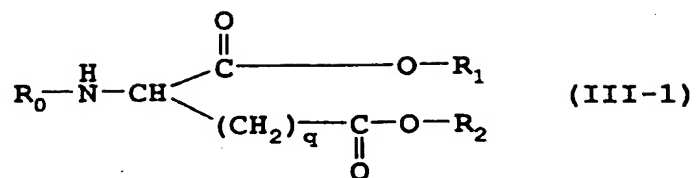
$R-(OCH_2CH_2)_mCH_2NH-$ or $R-(OCH_2CH_2)_mOCH_2C(O)NHCH_2CH_2NH-$ where R is H-, CH_3- , $CH_3C(O)-$, $HOOCCH_2-$, $H_2NCH_2CH_2NHC(O)CH_2-$, or poly- or oligo-peptides; and m is an integer of 1 to 3000.

Claim 14 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 6, wherein said R_0 is represented by a formula:
 $R-(OCH_2CH_2)_mCH_2NH-$ or $R-(OCH_2CH_2)_mOCH_2C(O)NHCH_2CH_2NH-$ where R is H-, CH_3- , $CH_3C(O)-$, $HOOCCH_2-$, $H_2NCH_2CH_2NHC(O)CH_2-$ or poly- or oligo-peptides; and m is an integer of 1 to 3000.

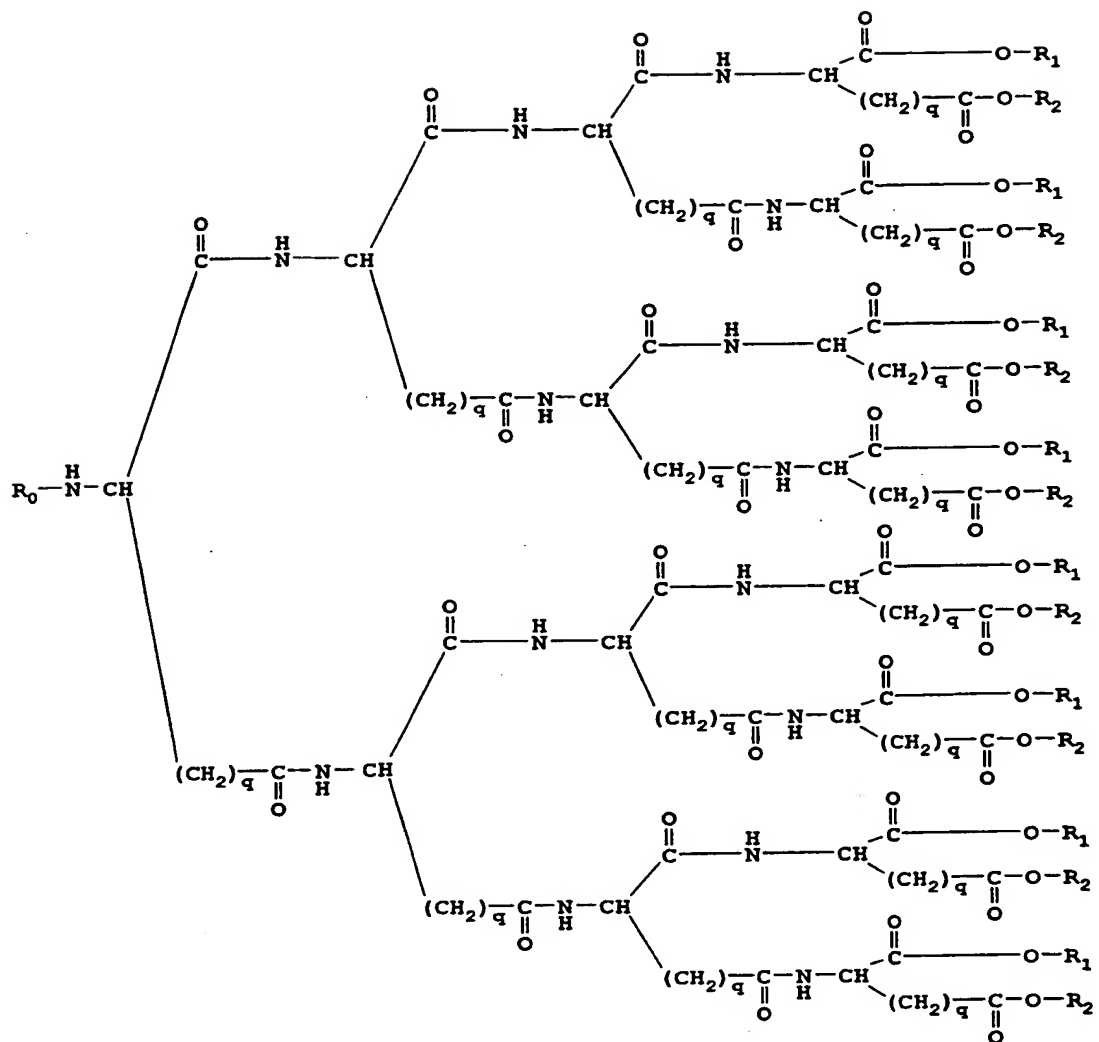
Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure having following general formula (III):



which is selected from the group consisting of an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (III-1), an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (III-2), an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (III-3), and an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (III-4):



(III-3)



(III-4)

where R_0 is a hydrophilic group; each of R_1 and R_2 are is independently a hydrophobic an
alkyl group; n is an integer of 1 to 4 and q is 1 or 2.

Claim 16 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 15, wherein said compound is represented by said formula (III-2), said formula (III-3) or said formula (III-4).

Claim 17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The amphiphilic compound according to ~~claim 17~~
claim 15, wherein said alkyl group contains 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

Claims 19-20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 15, wherein said R_0 is poly- or oligo-oxyethylene derivative, poly- or oligo-saccharide derivative, or poly- or oligo-peptide.

Claim 22 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 16, wherein said R_0 is poly- or oligo-oxyethylene derivative, poly- or oligo-saccharide derivative, or poly- or oligo-peptide.

Claim 23 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 15, wherein said R_0 is represented by a formula:
 $R-(OCH_2CH_2)_mCH_2NH-$ or $R-(OCH_2CH_2)_mOCH_2C(O)NHCH_2CH_2NH-$ (wherein R is H-, CH_3- , $CH_3C(O)-$, $HOOCCH_2-$, $H_2NCH_2CH_2NHC(O)CH_2-$ or poly- or oligo-peptides; and m is an integer of 1 to 3000.

Claim 24 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 16, wherein said R_0 is represented by a formula:

$R-(OCH_2CH_2)_mCH_2NH-$ or $R-(OCH_2CH_2)_mOCH_2C(O)NHCH_2CH_2NH-$ wherein R is H-, CH_3- , $CH_3C(O)-$, $HOOCCH_2-$, $H_2NCH_2CH_2NHC(O)CH_2-$ or poly- or oligo-peptides; and m is an integer of 1 to 3000.